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¶ By the King.

A Proclamation for restraint of killing, dressing, and eating of Flesh in Lent, or on Fish dayes, appointed by the Law, to be heareafter strictly obserued by all sorts of people.



Whereas, for the benefit and commoditie of this Our Realme of England, as well in the maintenance of Our Rauie and Shipping (a principall strength of this Iland) as for the sparing and increase of Flesh victuall, divers good Lawes and Statutes haue beene provided, for the due obseruation of Lent, and other dayes appointed for fish datus, which from time to time haue been seconded and quickened by sundry Our Proclama-
tions, and other Actes and Ordinances of State : And whereas, notwithstanding the many good provisions heretofore had and made in that kinde, wee yet finde the inordinate liberty now vsually taken by all sorts of people to kill, dress, and eate Flesh in the Lent season, and on other dayes and times prohibited by Law, is become an euill of such inue-
literate growth, as it requireth more then ordinary care to supprese the same :

We therefore much affecting the Reformation of this so great an euill (and enemie to the plentie of Our Kingdomes) haue thought fit estsoones (and that thus timely, the better to take awaie the excuse, and to preuent the prouisions of Flesh that vsually men make against the Lent season) To ex-
presse Our selfe and our Royall Commandement in this behalfe : wherein without any future de-
claration of Our pleasure in this kind, we shall expect and require from all our Subjects, that due
Notice be taken, and that a strict and continued obedience and conformity be yeelded thereunto in all
succeeding times.

And therefore wee doe straitly Charge and Command all and euery person and persons whatso-
ever to whom it may appertaine ; Carefullie to provide and see that these Orders following may be
duelie obserued and put in execution, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such penalties as by
the Lawes of this Our Realme may be inflicted vpon the Offenders for their contempt or neglect
of Us and Our Lawes, whereof we shall shew Our selues most sensible.

And first, wheras we find that the chiefest cause of these disorders hath growen from the Licences
that haue bin granted to Butchers to kill and biter flesh contrary to Law, and that by Our Lawes
no Mayor, Justice of Peace, or other person of what degree or quality soever, can grant any Licence
in this kinde. And that the Lords and others of Our Privie Councell, doe by Our direction forbear
to grant the same, or to give way thereunto ; Our will and pleasure is vpon the penalties provided by
Law, and such further punishment to be inflicted vpon the offenders, as shall be thought meet, that
no such Licence shall bee granted for the killing or bitering of flesh, And that no Butcher or other
person whatsoeuer, doe by colour thereof, kill, biter, or put to sale, any flesh contrarie to the Lawes
established and provided in that behalfe.

And for the auoiding of such inconueniences hereafter, Our will and pleasure is, That the Lord
Mayor of our City of London, and euerie other Officer & Justice of Peace, shall call before them, and
send for any of the servants of any Inholders, Victuallers, Cookes, Alehousekeepers, Lauerners,
and keepers of Ordinarie Tables, and such others that biter victuals, & to examine them vpon their
corporall Oathes, what Flesh is, or hath beene during the Lent season, or other dayes prohibited
by the Law, dressed, killed, bitered, or eaten in their houses, which if they shall refuse to doe, then to
committ to prison the said servants so refusing vpon their Oathes to declare the truthe.

the Lord Maior shall also yeerely before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders of Ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Alehousekeepers, and Lauerners within the City and Liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or such person as hee shall appoint meete for that purpose, and shall take Recognizances with sufficient Sureties of every of them in good summes of money, (One hundred pounds of the Principal, and their Sureties thirtie pounds apiece,) to Our Maior, nor to dresse any Flesh in their houses in the Lent time, or at other times prohibited for any of the like parties upon like penalties, by the Justices of Peace of Our Cittie of Westminster, & Liberties thereof. And every of the said Recognizances to be certified into Our Exchequer.

and for the Butchers and others that come with victuall of Flesh out of the Countrey to the City, pleasure is, That the Lord Maior shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates and other places in the Suburbs, where Flesh may be brought, to view and search, and to intercept the same; and if any of those Watchmen shall be found negligent and corrupt in his Charge, then hee to be committed to prison during the whole Lent.

And to the end that Fishermen may imploy themselves to Sea with better encouragement then before, and that the Fishmongers may furnish themselves with such store from time to time after, as shall be expedient, aswell for the provision of the Cittie, as for selling the same at reasonable rates; wee will that they take notice of this Our Commandement and constant resolution concerning the obseruance of Lent, and Fish-dayes, both now and hereafter, as by Law is required.

And furthermore, as we thinke it fit that every man should be a rule of order and abstinance in his owne house, as well in respect of the publique, as of his private ease and benefit, So wee straightly charge and command all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Alehouse-keepers, Lauerners, not to make any Supper for any person or persons whatsoever upon Friday next, either in Lent or out of Lent; nor to suffer any meat to be then dressed, buttered, sold or eaten in their houses, upon such punishment as is due to those that shal contemne Our Royall pleasure and commandement.

And whereas much as upon further aduise and consideration had, that the restraint of killing and dressing of flesh is no sufficient remedie for the mischiefe, unlesse there be better care taken also to suppress the lawfull and inordinate eating of flesh in the time of Lent, and on other dayes and times to come, wherewith Our Subjects haue accustomed themselves rather for delicate then for necessarie diet; It is therefore Our Royall will and pleasure, and accordingly we doe heereby straightly prohibit all Our Subjects of what degree or qualitie soever within this Our Realme, to eate any flesh in the time of Lent, or on other dayes now vsually obserued as Fish-dayes, without speciall Licence first obtained from the Bishop of the Diocesse, or such other as by the Law shall be given Licence in that behalfe, (which we will and Command shall be sparingly granted in cases of necessitie only) upon paine of Our high displeasure, and to bee proceeded against by our Attorney Generall in Our Court of Starre Chamber, as contumers of Our Royall Commandement, and upon such further penaltie as by the Lawes and Statutes of Our Realme shall be inflicted on those as shall wilfully offend in this kinde.

That these Orders are to be executed in the Cittie of London, and places neare to the same, So is by these Pleasure and Commandement, That Our Justices of Peace in all Shires Within their severall Circuits, and all other Maiors, Bayliffes, and chiefe Officers in Townes corporate, or in any Liberties or other Precincts, shall cause the same to be obserued and performed in like manner; and that no Letter of Toleration, Fauour, or Connivencie be vsed by any Justice of Peace, or other Officer, contrary to the true meaning of this Our Proclamation, as both they that shall presume wittingly so to do, and the offence, as also the party himselfe offending, will answe the same at their uttermost pena. Our Commandement being, That Our Lawes in this case shall be heereafter severely executed upon all offenders whatsoever.

Further charging and commanding the Lord Maior of Our Cittie of London, the Justices of All their severall Circuits, the Maiors and chiefe Officers of all other Cities and Townes corporate, Justices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and all other Officers and Ministers within the severall shires of this Our Realme, That they and every of them fully obey this Our Pleasure, and cause the same to be obeyed and executed by others, as they will answe the contrary at their uttermost perills.

for the due execution of the premisses in all other the Countys of this Our Realme, aswell Our Cities of London and Westminster, we doe hereby straightly Charge and Command all Justices of Peace within the same Countys, aswell within Liberties as without, That yeerely peere hereafter before Lent, they cause to come and appeare before them all Inholders,

Tauerners, Alehouse-keepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers whatsoeuer, and to re-
take of them to Our vse, severall Recognizances, with Sureties, for obseruation of the
same, (viz.) The principals in ten pounds, and their two Sureties in five pounds apiece: And
if they shall refuse or neglect to enter into such Recognizances, That then the sayd Justices shall sup-
pose such persons so refusing, from Victualling any moze, and shall also cause them foorthwith to
become bound by Recognizance with Sureties to Our vse, (viz.) The principals in twentie pounds,
and their two Sureties in tenne pounds apiece, not to Victuall or sell Beere or Ale from thence-
forth; which if they shall refuse to doe, then the sayd Justices to commit to prison all such persons
refusing to enter into such Recognizance, vntill they shall submit themselves, and become bound,
as aforesayd. And further for all such Inholders, Cookes, Tauerners, Alehouse keepers, But-
chers, and other Victuallers as shall not appeare before the said Justices, as aforesaid, That they
immediately send foorth their Warrants, or graunt Processe against them and euery of them so
making default, to appeare and answeare their contempt at the next generall Sessions of the Peace.
And further for the more due punishment of Inholders, Keepers of ordinary Tables, Cookes,
Butchers, Victuallers, Alehouse-keepers, Tauerners, and such like, who shall forfeit their Recog-
nizances by killing or dressing of flesh, or suffering it to be eaten in their houses in the Lent time, and
other Fish-dayes; And to the end that the same may bee aswell taken in due forme of Law, as due-
certified into Our Exchequer, wee doe will and require all Justices of Peace, as well within
Liberties as without, That at such times as they shall meet within their severall Divisions, for
the taking off such Recognizances, that they give notice to the Clerkes of the Peace, or their Depu-
ties, to attend them for that purpose, Of whom wee will require a strict Accompt for the Legall
making and returning of the same Recognizances into Our sayd Exchequer: The sayd Clerkes of
the Peace and their Deputies, taking for the making and certifying of the same Recognizances of all
Alehouse-keepers, Tauerners, Cookes and Butchers, the Fee of two shillings six pence; And of all
Alehouse-keepers the Fee of twelve pence, as limited to be taken by the Clerke of the Peace for Our
Countie of Middlesex for every such Recognizance, and no more.

And lastly, for that the Fishmongers (upon the obseruation of the aforesaid Orders) may perhaps
take occasion thereby to enhance the prices as well of fresh as of Sea fish; we doe therefore hereby
further charge and command all Fishmongers whatsoeuer, That they sell and bter their Fish at
moderate and vsuall Rates and prices: And that all Justices of Peace, Misors, Bailiffes, and other
Our officers as well within Liberties as without, to whom it shal appertaine, shal from time to time
take such order with the said Fishmongers, that Our Subjects be not grieved by any such enhance-
ment or encrease of prices vpon Fish, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such further punish-
ment as may be inflicted vpon them by Our Lawes.

Given at Our Court at New-Market the fourth day of February, in the nineteenth yeere of Our Reigne
of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the fiftieth.

God save the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by BONHAM NORTON, and JOHN BILL,
Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

M. D C. XXI.